INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH

31-36
Action

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1958 MAY 16 PM 1 30

Control: 4816
Rec'd: May 8, 1958
8:21 a.m.

INR
Info

FROM: Taipei

INR

RMR

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 919, May 8, 5 p.m.

Action Assigned to C/P

Action Taken reply sent

May 16, 1958

C/P

W.M. Kahmann

file

9 MAY 19

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SENT DEPARTMENT 919, CINCPAC UNNUMBERED.

ROGER CHANNEL

Reference: State-Defense 686.

Embassy assessment points raised reference telegram:

(1) Discontinuance activity now performed by 253rd would appear void agreement and relieve US from legal obligation for further training.

(2) Foreign Ministry has given informal assurances Collins agreement can be concluded quickly if US accepts changes proposed by Chinese as reported EMBTEL 873. Not likely GRC will renege on these assurances. However, if 253rd withdrawn before concluded, barely possible Chinese, seeking some "compensation" for training benefits formerly obtained from 253rd, might complicate Collins negotiations by request for training Chinese personnel in scatterwave techniques. As to status forces negotiations, unlikely that conclusion main agreement would be materially affected by withdrawal 253rd, with or without offer of alternative ELINT training and other facilities.

(3) However, without such offer, negotiations on military facilities annex relating to Linkou activities might be complicated by Chinese renewal early demands for benefits from such activities.

(4) Embassy heartily concurs undersirability reducing number Americans, and does not recommend permanent retention 253rd on Taiwan. Political factors seen by Embassy stem solely from fact 253rd has in past been source of special benefit to Chinese; withdrawal 253rd will deprive them of those benefits; they are likely

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likely seek similar benefits in connection other units on Taiwan; failure obtain such other benefits will introduce minor irritant into relations, minor complication into pending negotiations.

None of these factors is of major proportions. However, if convenient to government agencies concerned, Embassy believes would be desirable offer Chinese some new benefits comparable to those they losing on withdrawal of 253rd. If such offer is to be made, Embassy believes it should be made coincident with notification withdrawal of 253rd. In Embassy view, another factor is desirability of informing GRC promptly there is possibility creating unnecessary suspicion or irritating GRC unnecessarily by last minute notice. 253rd has been packing equipment for shipment and such actions can not go unobserved by Chinese.

DRUMRIGHT

BB:CV/1